

## **IOOS Federal Funding Opportunity Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Question 1:** Are federal organizations allowed to receive grant funds?

Answer: Yes. The federal funding opportunity states: "Federal agencies or institutions and foreign governments may not be the primary recipient of awards under this announcement, but are encouraged to partner with applicants (FFO, page 11)." This means that federal organizations shall not serve as the lead recipient or principal investigator. The grant recipient may collaborate and partner with federal organizations and allocate funding for partners. Federal organizations shall not receive the majority of grant funds, but they can receive significant funds through the grant based on their roles and the planned project budget as stated in the grant proposal. If federal organizations will be receiving funds, the federal organizations must demonstrate that they have legal authority to receive funds from outside sources in excess of their appropriations. NOAA offices are allowed to receive funds through agency business operating plans, but the funding levels must be clearly identified in the grant proposal and associated detailed budget documentation.

### **Question 2:** Can the funds available from this Funding Opportunity be used for projects that place buoys or other infrastructure outside of the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone?

Answer: The stated purpose of this Federal Funding Opportunity is to help build the Integrated Ocean Observing System, which is the United States' component of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems [FFO, pg. 2]. Given this purpose, and that the Letter of Intent evaluation criteria are weighted 60% on how well proposed work meets program goals [FFO, p 18], we expect competitive Letters to have areas of interest within U.S. EEZ boundaries or where U.S. waters meet those of neighboring countries.

### **Question 3:** Is there a connection between this Funding Opportunity and previously funded IOOS projects?

Answer: No. The intent of the FFO is to provide funds to the external community in support of IOOS. Our assumption is that these funds will be available in addition to funds provided to the IOOS community through the Regional Association development cooperative agreements and the Coastal Observation Technology System (COTS) awards. This FFO is an open, competitive process and is not intended to provide continuation of specific COTS awards, RA awards, or any other previously provided funding.

The Regional Association development multi-year agreements already in place provide a mechanism to fund the third year of those awards should funds become available under the Continuing Resolution (CR). The status of individual earmarks (e.g., COTS) under the CR is uncertain at this time. Unfortunately, we can not provide additional guidance until a determination on FY07 appropriations is made.

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Given the uncertainty of IOOS funding under the CR for observing systems, the regional IOOS community should consider the present FFO as an opportunity to further IOOS goals.

**Question 4:** Must LOIs (and proposals, if requested) be submitted by an IOOS Regional Association to be considered?

Answer: CSC strongly encourages all LOIs and proposals to be consistent with the strategic direction of the relevant IOOS Regional Association; however, this competition is open for anyone to submit a LOI (and proposal).